



The Sino-American Security Dialogue

The Dialogue seeks to promote a shared security community among the new generation of young Chinese and American security experts before they assume more prominent positions where they might be prevented from frankly expressing their views. Scholars and think tank researchers have limited understandings of each other's security cultures, and need a forum where they can develop a common language to talk and think about pressing security issues in Sino-American relations.

The Dialogue's goals thus resonate with all four of the Mershon Center's main themes. The theme of SASD 2002 in Boulder was "Assurance and Deterrence in US-China Relations," a topic which explored themes one (the use of force and diplomacy), two (decision-making and war/peace) and four (the institutional management of violent inter-group conflict). SASD 2003 in Beijing on "China's Rise and the 21st Century Asia-Pacific" will likely also likely explore themes one, two and four. The specific topic for SASD 2004 in Columbus has not yet been determined. Possibilities include mutual image construction and racialism in US-China relations, domestic politics and US-China relations, the strategic pivot and the Korean peninsula, and the US-China-Japan strategic triangle. Such topics could touch upon all four Mershon themes. Theme three on culture/identity and national security would certainly be relevant to the first two ideas.

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